

“You Spill, You Dig”

Deployed soldiers benefit from environmental handbook and video

U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District have joined forces to create an environmental handbook, flashcard and video designed specifically for working in a deployed environment.

Entitled “You Spill, You Dig,” the materials focus on environmental protection and pollution prevention during a contingency operation. The handbook provides deployed soldiers everything they need to know on keeping the environment clean and safe.

“The handbook, video and flashcard are basic, common sense guides for use in transporting, handling, storing and disposing of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes in a deployed environment,” said Robert Flowers, Planning and Environmental Project Manager for Europe District. “They focus on the critical areas of soldier safety and environmental protection under potentially difficult conditions.”

The handbook is organized around the concepts of environmental protection and pollution prevention, and arranged in sequence from pre-deployment to redeployment. It provides information on pre-deployment planning, transportation, establishing and maintaining camp at a deployed location, breaking camp, redeployment, as well as spill and accident response.

The pollution prevention section of the handbook — color-coded in green — illustrates the proper way to store hazardous materials, how to prevent environmental accidents, how to setup and maintain maintenance areas, fuel points, and hazardous material storage areas.

The spill response section of the handbook — color-coded in red — provides information on how to use a spill kit, how to respond to a spill, reporting a spill, and how to dispose of hazardous wastes.

“In the event of an accident, the handbook provides easy to find and easy to use spill response information,” said Flowers. It’s intended to help the soldiers and their unit run a clean, safe and effective operation.”

“We did our best to keep the handbook from looking like the typical Army publication by using interesting color, language, graphic design and even font style,” said Flowers. “I think we’ve succeeded in producing an informative and interesting guide that will be useful to the deployed soldier wherever he or



Produced by U.S. Army, Europe and Europe District, the “You Spill, You Dig” handbook is an environmental “how to” reference guide for deployed soldiers. (Handbook created by Dames & Moore GmbH & Co.)

she may be. A soldier doesn’t have to know everything in the handbook to be able to use it effectively to solve a specific problem.”

The flashcard was created to present the most important and useful concepts and information quickly and clearly, according to Flowers. It was also designed to fit into a soldier’s uniform pocket.

“The flashcard is a scaled-down version of the handbook and lists the basic housekeeping rules necessary to ensure hazardous materials are managed properly. It takes up less space than the handbook and is more likely to be carried by soldiers in the field.”

The 17-minute video has some of the same information as the handbook, stressing the importance of environmental protection.

“The video was intended to be used as an informational aid during meetings and other training opportunities,” said Flowers. “The video uses real examples of how to do the job correctly.”

“I really like the fact that deployed soldiers

actually participated in the video,” said Dr. Kurt Preston, Europe District Technical Coordinator for Environmental Remediation. Preston is collocated with USAREUR’s Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer (DCSENGR) and assisted with the project. “The video, handbook and flashcards are excellent tools for deployed soldiers,” he added.

Garry Zettersten, Chief of the Environmental Division at Headquarters USAREUR DCSENGR was also involved with the project. “The video, handbook and flashcard are instructional aids and give soldiers the basic tools to protect themselves and the environment,” said Zettersten.

“We’ve given the handbook to a number of Eastern European countries and Hungary is considering having the handbook translated for use in their country.”

Zettersten added that some of the handbooks were distributed at the 1998 U.S. EUCOM Environmental Conference in Hungary which is conducted under the Partnership for Peace Program. The video was also shown at the conference, which provided a valuable critique of the materials.

Staff Sgt. Giani Manieri, who was responsible for environmental protection at the troop unit level during his deployment to Bosnia commented, “The video will be extremely useful as part of the soldiers’ orientation to base camp life. The handbook and flashcards will be daily reinforcement, making my job much easier in the long run.”

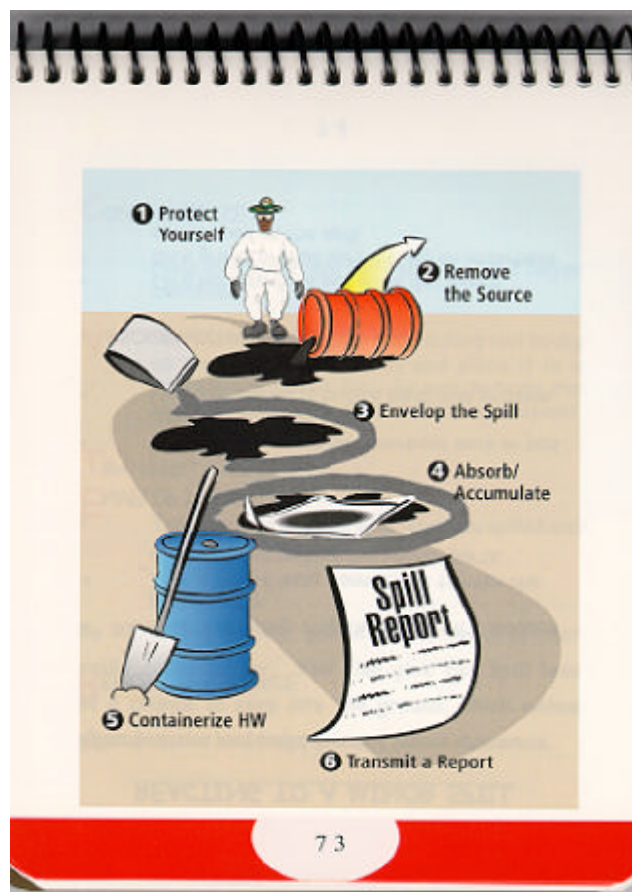
Bill Nicholls, Environmental Protection Specialist for USAREUR also played a major role in the project.

“We wanted to create nontechnical, soldier-friendly informational aids on the proper handling and management of hazardous materials,” said Nicholls. “The handbook, flashcard and video accomplish that and also address the personal safety and health issue. They provide information on eliminating the possibility of adverse health effects to deployed soldiers.”

“We’ve found that, given the right tools, information, and resources, today’s soldier is very concerned about keeping the environment clean.”

“I would like to compliment the Corps on the great work they did on this project,” added Nicholls. “Especially the efforts of Maj. Tim Touchette, Robert Flowers, and the contractor Dames & Moore GmbH & Co. They all went the extra mile to make this a successful project.”

Nicholls also thanked Project Director Robert Cadow and Project Manager Tim Conley from



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Dames & Moore GmbH & Co.

Flowers also stated the success of the project was in large part due to the efforts of Maj. Tim Touchette, former Europe District Planning and Environmental Project Manager.

Other Europe District employees who worked on the project include Debra Dale, Chief of Europe District’s Planning and Environmental Branch, and Mary Schommer, Europe District Chief of the Ansbach Environmental Section.

Copies of the handbook were distributed to the 8th Engineer Battalion, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the Hohenfels Training Area for deployment training.

For more information on the environmental handbook, flashcard and video, contact Bill Nicholls at civilian (49) 6221-57-9073, or DSN 370-9073.